Invariably Tied Together

Primary Sources from Guru Gossip, 2012-2015

Preface

Before the YouTube snark/gossip forum Guru Gossip (GG or Guru Gossiper) went offline in 2025, I was going through the threads on Dan and Phil to preserve information about the early history of the Phandom. This forum in particular was of interest to me as a researcher as it was the direct predecessor to the creation of the still-extant In Depth Bants. Some, but not all of it, was preserved on the WayBack Machine. I copied and pasted relevant parts of the forum into a 138-page Google doc during my research.

Due to the nature of GG, many of the early threads feature very careless sharing of sensitive information related to Dan and Phil. So, in the interest of not continuing to circulate this information while preserving the voices of contemporary viewers - I have created this document. Links are provided so you may plug them into the WayBack machine and explore at your own discretion.

This reader does not include posts archived independently and shared by myself on FanLore as part of my writing on the Phandom prior to the publication of this reader. I also only have saved material going through the beginning of March 2015.

The content of these posts belongs to those who originally posted it. Incorporation in this document does indicate either endorsement of the poster's words or actions nor does it indicate agreement with the observations. If you recognize yourself as one of the posters and take issue with your inclusion, please reach out to me on tumblr (arcticmist0324).

Readers should keep in mind that, while GG ended up becoming used as a fan forum for some phandom members, it was inherently more in line with a snark community. Thus, this bias naturally should be taken into consideration.

Credit for the title to GG user "wisegirl" who described Dan and Phil as "invariably tied together" in a 2014 post.

Sincerely,
Ellie G.
EllieElls99 on Fanlore
Arcticmist on AO3
Arcticmist0324 on Tumblr

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Part 1: Commentary on the Phandom

2012

kayleighrawrz (16 Nov 2012) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455
…I think their fans are a bit on the crazy side though and I cant go on their tags on tumblr without girls fantasizing about them dating. And the fanfiction that gets wrote about them scares me :s ~

Gremlin (17 Nov 2012) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455
I think some of their fangirls are really mental and straight up creepy and that makes the rest of the regular viewers look bad.

danosaur (18 Nov 2012) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455
on behalf of the fanbase, i think it's safe to say that we're not as 'mental' and as 'creepy' as most people think. we just have a really messed-up sense of humour. we're quite a tightly-knit phandom as well, and we obviously know when to be serious and when to be not. just saying

2013

illegal_mind (7 January 2013) https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455
the tumblr phandom has basically become annoying, it was a nice place before dan suddenly hit fame and passed 500k and kept rising. but after that, a lot of annoying girls that really one watch them for their looks have joined the phandom on tumblr, most people can't even stand going to the amazingphil, danisnotonfire and phan tags because the new "fans" have made it unbearable. it's repost after repost, the same old joke we told months ago before they arrived. and it basically became the one direction fandom

HattieChaos (12 Jan 2013) https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=20
…I mean if they go around saying they're gay/bi then even more people will point fingers and give them hell. It's like the Phandom thinks they are entitled to all the secrets of their lives just because they share some funny stories on Youtube with us. It's not like that and it kind of sucks. This is why the Phandom has such a horrendous reputation and honest to god, I've lost some followers on Tumblr before just for calling myself a Danosaur and reblogging a couple Dan GIFs! We have a decent reputation for being one the creepiest, nosiest, and annoying fandoms around and I just wish people would cool it a bit. :/

Maysilee (19 Jan 2013) -
… I blacklisted their tag on tumblr and unfollowed people who mainly post about them. I couldn't deal with people constantly telling others to step off and stop reblogging the Valentine's video thing, and to stop posting about Phan. They were saying it was slander and it was unfair when Phil had apparently(?) tweeted asking people to respect their privacy. While I agree that it's unfair to spam people with posts about them and bash anyone who doesn't ship them, it's fair game when a portion of your life is in the internet. And we all know their target audience anyway.

There's quite a bit of fanfiction, and I think it's also fair game if people wish to speculate. Spamming Dan and Phil with fanfiction/porn-y fanart is also rude. But they honestly shouldn't blame others for the fact they seem really fishy about a relationship between them when it's so blatant. I'm not even a watcher/fan

of theirs so I'm not really bothered what comes out of this, but it'd be a shame to see one of them get angry and threaten to leave Youtube.

illegal_mind (19 Jan 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=60
phan shippers don't bash non shippers, it's the other way around, they go to people's askboxes and bash them for shipping phan and then post hate on the phan tag. and they blame phan shippers for everything, when the antiphan shippers are the ones that caused it…
quite a bit of fanfiction is an understatement, there's LOADS of phan fanfics and they're posted on daily basis on tumblr. no one spams dan and phil with it, and dan has said he doesn't mind the fanfictions because it's an artistic outlet…
and they'd never leave youtube, even tho they now have a job on the bbc radio1 on sundays, it's not enough to pay the bills, so they need youtube for the money…

alcoholicferrets (19 Jan 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=60
…Dan's definitely the one who always starts the drama within the fandom...it's annoying, tbh. You can't make videos with all this shippy stuff, say you're ok with it, that fanfics are a creative outlet...and then insult like half of your audience, blaming them for w/e. It's hilarious how all the YTers when they started out would answer the most personal questions and now pretend it never happened. Even just on Formspring, he made it super obvious him and Phil were together, as well as stating his lube flavor preferences and that he swallows...but shippers are invading their privacy by speculating about Phan? I dunno, he's just not good at dealing with Internet stuff. The smart thing to do would be to let the old embarrassing Formspring and VYou questions gather dust so new fans don't even bother to go check it out. All this privating, deleting, etc. of old videos and old posts is just going to make everyone screenshot and download everything he does, so it'll truly never leave the Internet. He has so many subscribers and will probably get to a million soon, even a person with no gaydar will see him and Phil and go looking for Phan proof...and will easily find all these old screenshots…

illegal_mind (20 January 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=80
the thing is, a few months ago, the crazy people in the phandom were a minority, but then they started becoming a majority, maybe it wouldn't affect that much in subs, but they'd be affected every time they went on tumblr to check their tags because those crazy girls have taken complete control of the tags to the point where many people have untracked them or stepped away from the phandom so they could avoid those girls. they may not affect dan and phil on their youtube career, but they'd be affected every time they went on tumblr. and dan can't handle criticism, a woman made an article in th guardian with a negative review about dan and phil's radio show and dan tweeted at her "thank you for your delightfully uninformed & pseudo-intellectual review of my show! you really understand this generation." he had another tweet where he kinda called her ignorant but he deleted it, which doesn't surprise me because after those 2 tweets the crazy girls start digging into this woman's life, attacked her on twitter, facebook, got her email and sent her death threats. this fandom became a nut house and it'll be worse if dan and phil come out as a couple because those girls will not be nice about it. they are insane

illegal_mind (26 Jan 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=120
there's people in the phandom that go through comments in old videos screenshot them and them post them on tumblr, go to dan and phil's personal facebook and them post old images from it on tumblr, and i've even seen people going to dan and phil's facebook friends and look through their photos to find photos of dan and phil and them post them on tumblr. there's also people that have tracked them down using reference points and waited outside their apartment when they lived in manchester. so yes, there's people who will go all the way back to find old posts and screenshot them. there's obsessed people in all fandoms, and there's a LOT of crazy people in the phandom

thisismyusernamek (8 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=60
This is not hacking. Stalking yes, but we're not exactly invading their privacy. The internet is a public domain, and once you post something, then that's it. They should have been aware of consequences before they publicly share things on the internet. What we're doing dose not make us bad people - maybe a bit obsessive yes haha, but not awful.

usurpadora (11 February 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4583&start=840
As for their fans, yeah, there is a huge part of the fandom that's very sensitive emotionally and that actually makes the idea of Dan&Phil even more important to them, it's almost like an obsession. I don't need to get into this too much, you understand what I mean, but yes that's likely where things start to go wrong, because you begin to feel a sense of claim over the boys. (looooong years of interaction with a fanbase of a band I liked has taught me this, it's often the deeply attached fans that show the more "obsessed" signs)

illegal_mind (19 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4784&start=920
i just saw something on my dash. bbc radio1 has put barricades in front of the building because of the amount of girls that just stay there waiting to meet dan and phil. these girls stay HOURS outside the building just to meet them, and from stories i've heard, there's been security guards that have lied saying there was no dan and phil working there or that dan and phil haven't arrived yet (even tho they tweeted about being inside the building). i'm assuming the bbc gave the security guards strict orders to not let the crazy fangirls in the building

illegal_mind (19 February 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4784&start=940
i feel sorry for dan, phil and anyone that works at bbc radio1. having to put up with crazy fangirls like that can't be easy. we're the ones treated like the bad guys just because we have photos and screenshots, but we're not the ones hunting them down and staying outside radio1 just to meet them. if the bbc had to put barricades outside the building, it's because there were too many fangirls that became a risk to anyone working there. luckily, there's security there, so the girls represent no harm to dan and phil, for now, because the amount of fangirls waiting outside radio1 will increase and it'll become a big safety issue

illegal_mind (19 February 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4784&start=940
these girls act like dan and phil are massive celebs. yes they have a big following, yes they are verified on twitter, but they're not celebrities, they're youtubers. for me, anyone that doesn't have papparazzi around them doesn't fit in the celebrity category. these girls need to realize that they're guys with internet fame and that's all. they expose their lives to the internet, not to the mass media like celebrities do. and i wouldn't be surprised if the bbc felt the need to assign body guards to protect dan and phil from the fangirls

phan (19 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4831&start=80
…on the topic of dan and phil, i think there's going to be rules against hanging outside pretty soon. it's only a couple of weeks in and they already have 20 or so people waiting outside. within the next few months, the numbers are going to get ridiculous, and the other people working there are going to start complaining. there's nothing stopping them from hanging around, really, but dan and phil will get pretty sick of it soon. it's very possible that someone's going to take it too far and follow them home. a similar thing happened when they lived in manchester. a couple girls (who i've talked to, and it's definitely as creepy as it sounds) sat outside their apartment complex, in front of their window, and started shouting for them to come out. they tweeted them as well, and phil told them that he wasn't home, so he wasn't

coming out. but even if he was home, he wouldn't do it anyway, because it's creepy. he made a tumblr post about it, actually. you can probably find it in his archives.

JJJ (21 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4831&start=720
Wow. way to effectively cyber bully two people you apparently care about. I hope neither Dan or Phil ever see these threads. Some of the things you have said and posted (especially in the earlier topics) are cruel and completely beyond invasive. What is your end game? What do you want their reaction to be? For them to delete their channels and stop posting videos? To stop talking to their fans altogether? You should be ashamed. Posting pictures of Dan when he is 14? With his ex girlfriend in a bikini taken from a cached site that has been deleted? What is wrong with you people? If I was them I would give up on the internet all together after seeing this. I'm all for gossip but this has totally taken it too far into scary stalker levels with a complete disregard of their feelings and privacy. I hope none of you are ever bullied in this way - as if someone did this to you i'm sure you would class it as bullying

JJJ (21 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4831&start=720
Because trying to publicly 'out' someone isn't bullying at all is it? Of course it is! You don't know the full picture? Saying things like 'don't worry i've backed up all our evidence on a large PDF' what are you going to use that for? Maybe deliver it to Dan and Phil in person when you find out their exact home address? This is all classed as both cyber bullying and stalking. Stalkers gather as much private information as they can about a person, every aspect on their life that the person doesn't want public. Sure it happens to other celebrities but why subject them to it? Do you like them at all? Or are you enjoying being cruel to them? This needs to stop.
Also the fact that some of you are excited by the fact that Dan or Phil might read all these mean comments is kind of sick.

illegal_mind (6 Jun 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4913&start=640
… they've been shipped since 2009, which was when they first did a video together, pretty much everyone assumed they were a couple, and they never denied that…

2014

SunnyDays (3 January 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=200
This is all part of a bigger problem: obsessed young girls on the internet. They don't just do this to Youtubers. Rumoured girlfriends of their idols get death threats and anyone who doesn't agree with them on any subject needs to kill themselves, apparently. These girls are crazy. I don't remember ever being like this as a young teen. It's completely ridiculous. But there's no way to stop them or talk any sense into them, because if try to reason with them, you get those death threats and get told to go kill yourself.

illegal_mind (29 January 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=940
there's a problem on both sides. there's phan shippers that go a bit overboard, but that seems pretty common in shipping.
and then there's the anti-phan people who will send you death threats for even thinking dan and phil aren't straight (which is something i've only seen in one other pairing, harry styles and louis tomlinson, from 1D).
but there's nice and calm phan shippers, and people who don't care about phan, who are nice about it, instead of wanting phan shippers to drink bleach

illegal_mind (28 Mar 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=560
this isn't 100% sure, but a few fans with "detective skills" are saying that they found dan and phil's room at playlist, based off what they saw in vlogs, and the only room that matches is a 1 bed bedroom

northern native (2 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=580

> **illegal_mind wrote:**
> yup, it even happened during one of phil's first liveshows. he kept
> getting tweets from a girl that was standing outside the apartment and
> asking them to come down so she could meet them. phil said he doesn't like that and that it's not ok. because one thing is to randomly see them on the street, and they'll have no problem stopping and talking to fans, but when someone is standing outside their apartment, they won't go down to meet the person because they don't want people to think that's ok to do

You look at these events and realize these people really are celebrities, nothing is different from them and the stalkers of the one direction community. A bunch of Irish girls stalked Niall's brother's wedding and his nephew's christening, also they all sit outside his parents' house and beg to be taken in and to see their trophies and rooms. The level of stalker that happens to celebrities is now rivaling youtube personalities, it's amazing. Obviously not saying it's right AT ALL, just really fascinating.

Sexybreadtin (3 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=620
People in the Phandom are ruthless if you mention the Valentine's Day video like seriously there is a new "Phandom Rules!!!1!!" Post like once a month saying that "we don't mention THAT video" or something like that It's honestly ridiculous.

illegal_mind (26 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=920
i'm laughing my ass off rn.
apparently there's some phandom members that are trying to find cctv footage from 5 year ago, from the train station where dan and phil met irl for the first time

illegal_mind (2 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=180
yeah, it is weird that the phandom makes the vday video a taboo. and like you said, other fandoms would spread it like wildfire. and it's not just the vday video. people act similarly to the formspring questions and also to the dailybooth photos(especially dan's milestone celebration "nakedbooths").
when that dude from 5sos had his dick pic leaked, it was everywhere. that photo of harry styles with his pants down, peeing on the bushes, everywhere. peter wentz' dick pics, everywhere. but if it were with dan and phil, the phandom would flip shit just at the mention of something like that

illegal_mind (18 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=420
the thing about phan shippers is that, a lot of them are just that, shippers. they like the cutesy and sexual stuff, but they don't think more of it. they think dan and phil are 2 straight friends. they don't look at evidence or anything, they just ship 2 guys that they think would make a good couple.

and then you add those people, to people like the dangirls, who WANT dan to be straight, and you get a bunch of fangirls shipping dan and phil with every girl they stand next to. so that results in many fangirls ignoring anything that comes from a guy. if dan and phil were clearly flirting with some guy, the majority of the phandom would think they were just kidding. dan talking about his male crushes is completely ignored, because the phandom thinks he's just joking about it. they don't really see the possibility of dan and phil not being straight. it's really not even about them dating each other, it's just that, if they're with a

female friend, people will immediately rumor they're dating her, but if they're with a male friend, especially a gay male friend that's out of the closet, the phandom won't take long to dismiss them as just friends.

wisegirl (21 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=520
… i thinks that the craziness that comes with shipping real people. shipping fictional people is one thing but real individuals; the fandom ends up analyzing everything, watching their every move, & every little thing is a sign of something bigger. a part of me kinda wants them to be caught with other people cause the shitstorm in the phandom would be hilarious lol. then again nothing quite like the games you play with ur own mind. take the troyler fandom, troye just dealt what i thought was a death blow, but its still going strong.

then again it is this type of talk, gossip, and rumor that keeps fandoms going. i think dan & phil know that too.

illegal_mind (22 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=560
the phandom's a bit crazy, they can be compared to the 1D fandom very easily, where some are just normal fans, some ship 2 of them and believe there's something there, others hate that ship and send death threats to the people who ship them, and some are crazy stalkers. the fact dan and phil are so secretive about their lives, unlike vloggers, who give the impression they're open about theirs, but in fact they carefully choose what to show, is what makes the difference. if dan and phil were more open about their personal lives, the phandom wouldn't be so interested in knowing their every move.

demonicpudding (20 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=460
So after lurking on and stalking these threads for longer than any person with a modicum of self respect would care to admit, I've finally decided to inflict my presence upon you guys. Why, you ask? I just... couldn't take it anymore. Simple as that. It's not like I have a problem with the popular 'phan' discussion blogs, but kids. Oddly enough, that ask about Dan's feelings which was just mentioned is exactly what pushed me towards this site. It's embarrassing enough being a 21 year old associated with a group of people who identify themselves as the 'phandom', I do NOT need a constant reminder of the ages of D&P's target audience. So here I am, among people who seemingly are willing to have mature discussions about the men whom I still refer to as boys inside my head, all in a bid to make myself feel better about my... interests.

Oh and I suppose it is expected of me to mention my stand on 'phan', huh? I, and this may not be a popular opinion, actually do not give a fork. Anymore. I was curious once because tumblr has a way of doing that to you but I'm over it now. They can have a threesome with a goat for all I care. The way I feel about their equation is kinda like a marginally less crazed version of what I feel about Sam and Dean, or Sherlock and John. I like their friendship enough to want them to keep being best friends until death do them part(Probably stems from my lack of real life friends *coughs*), and don't care who they do or don't do the nasty with…

wisegirl (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
….the reality is that there is only two types of individuals invested in the existence of phan. those are living vicariously through them & so hope they are together & those who fantasize they have a shot with one or they other so they ardently try to disprove it. im sure i'm generalizing however most people on this forum are in neither camp. no one seems particular invested though most of us lean towards them being together because there IS a good amount of CIRCUMSTANTIAL evidence. whether it turns out true or not really doesn't bother me one way or the other.

Jonquil (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
I would say there's more than just 2 types of individuals invested in the idea of phan, there's the 3rd type who read forums and tumblr, look at the 'phan timeline' and are fascinated as to how people will create in their heads whatever they want, take things out of context. It's a really good study of the power of manipulation on social media, how people can create an impression of anything, in this case a sexual, romantic relationship between 2 people (who to be honest initially fed the beast of shipping). Even the phan timeline which seems to be most people's phan bible is manipulated, the person who put it together clearly stated that it's "Phan timeline" other tweets, messages etc of Dan & Phil that don't fit the Phan relationship view were not included.

2015

PoisonedApple (17 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=540
… to be fair, those of us who are regulars on this thread aren't really too different from Tumblrites, are we? We spend hours upon hours analyzing D&P's social media posts and videos, speculating over the words they say, the meaning behind them, the tone, the expressions, the way they look at each other, what they're wearing, how often they touch, what they could be referencing, etc. etc. I see some of you post on here every single day, even on holidays! Is this not a form of obsession? Maybe we're a bit more mature than the other fangirls because we're not as cringingly blind and spastic, but we're definitely just as obsessed lol, just in a different way, and despite the fact we're aware that we have only a limited view into the private lives of D&P, many of us in here have preconceived notions of D&P, talking like we know them, etc. Not to mention the herd mentality (We agree with each other's opinions and start to form and base our own based on what everyone else is saying, etc).

illegal_mind (17 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=540
i think what sets us apart from the tumblr phandom is rationalization.
they're very impulsive with what they see. if they see dan or phil standing next to a girl, they immediately go into panic mode and start screaming "GIRLFRIEND!!!!!!!!", while we're more likely to try and find out who the girl is and where they are and how they know each other.
there's also the maturity fact. most of us here are over 20(i'm 23), although there's a couple younger ones. whilst on tumblr, despite there being some older members, they're mostly under 16. and even tho some of them might be psychologically mature, the majority isn't, and they act like the typical boyband fangirl.

Part 2: Dan Fans vs. Phil Fans

2013

illegal_mind (27 Jan 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=140
Dan's part of the phandom is the crazy one. if you remove the danosaurs and dangirls and the antiphan that ALL belong on dan's part, you'll get a bunch of calm, funny, fangirling people, which is phil's part of the phandom…

illegal_mind (4 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=440
i'm gonna be honest here and say, i don't think he deserves one million subs. for starters, he refuses to admit that it's thanks to phil that he got a good head start and always claims it's because of his hard work, but the truth is, if it wasn't for phil, he wouldn't have gotten so many subs when he started.
ever since he passed 500k that he's become cocky, rude and a dick to a lot of his fans. a lot of those people only watch him for his looks and not for his videos. those girls made the phandom a shitty place and unbearable, all because they see dan bash other fans (mostly phan shippers) and think it's ok to do it as well, to the point of sending people death threats. because of dan's actions/personality and because of the way the dangirls have ruined the phandom, lots of people left the phandom or started drifting away because they just couldn't handle the crap that the phandom had become…
basically, ever since he moved to london he became a completely different person (at least he has online), and it wasn't a good change, it was the exact opposite.

i'm glad phil only has 600k because i know that he deserves every single one of those subscribers and i know when he hits 1 million (probably in a few months) it'll all be good fans who love him and his videos, and i know his internet persona won't change like dan's because of all this sudden change. like the rapid increase of subs, the radio show and all that, didn't affect how phil acts online, maybe he's different in person, but at least online, he's still nice and respects his fans

alcoholicferrets (19 Feb 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4784&start=900
Once again, Dan misses the point. You can't control what other people do. You can't control what they say or think or post about you on the Internet. You can only control how you react to it. It's not easy, but you have to realize it and consciously take actions towards it by not lurking on EVERY Tumblr posting about you (and here, hi bby) and by not messaging people about it. Fucking block the blogs if you need to, don't check your tags, whatever.

And honestly, even the creepiest stalking I did (finding his old high school pics) did not take much digging. Literally old Myspace archive --> Google --> a little looking around on a first page result and I found them. I'm DEF not the first one to have done so bc I've seen most of them on Tumblr and here. It's not going away, FACT. No amount of guilt-tripping of teenage girls will make them go away.

2015

jhamba (c. Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16073&start=320
Most Phil girls/boys are older, because they've been there since the beginning, and are probably past the intense new crush stage. Phil was perceived as a lot more attractive back when he used to flirt with the camera (he's still attractive, but he doesn't try to appeal to the camera the way he used to). Now he has a pretty boring online persona, tbh, especially to a newcomer. The people who watch him are people who started watching him because of Dan, and his old fans. He's not getting new subscribers by himself, and I don't think he's even trying to.

illegal_mind (2 Mar 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4913&start=140

> **Purplehat wrote:**
> What's going on? Apparently Dangirls are gaining up on Phil? Does anyone know?

some dangirls are just hating on phil saying he's ugly and gay and the phandom is getting pissed at them for saying that

illegal_mind (2 Mar 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4913&start=140
…what i heard is that it was just some people calling phil ugly and gay, but it's much worse, the post… ends with the person saying phil should slit his writs and that makes me incredibly sad. it makes me sad that we leave in a world where these little bitches will tell someone to kill themselves just because they don't like that person. they have absolutely no right to tell phil, or anyone else, to go kill themselves. this is what i despise most in the phandom, these dangirls that will go around and tell people to kill themselves, these girls disgust me

illegal_mind (4 Jul 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=4913&start=700
dan's fans are divided in 2 groups, danosaurs and dangirls. danosaurs are just the normal fangirls, majority likes phil, as well as the rest of the fantastic foursome. dangirls are the type of fangirls that watch youtubers for their looks, not their content, so they find dan extremely attractive and that's why they watch his videos, and they find phil ugly and that's why they hate them. they also hate the fact that dan and phil are close because of the possibility of dan and phil being in a relationship. a few months ago there was a post, which was a screenshot of an iphone note, that was going around tumblr and twitter, where some dangirl said phil was ugly and should go kill himself and stuff like that, it got a bunch of reblogs from people agreeing with it (it caused a massive shitstorm)...

dangirls are basically what started destroying the phandom. the phandom members got incredibly annoyed by the dangirls and they pretty much hate them (note that the phandom has no issue with someone liking one and not the other, the issue here is that the dangirls insult phil, send him death threats, tell him to kill himself, and only watch dan's videos because they find him attractive)

wisegirl (6 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=880
This is really fascinating to me. It could be a generalization but i've noticed a lot of dan fans who seem against the idea of phan or at least uncomfortable with it have a personal vested interest as they fancy him as an individual… a lot of the "dangirls" (i don't mean this in a derrogatory fashion) who insist on dan being heterosexual do so because they envision themselves with him. an almost reversal of the homosexual fantasy we talked about earlier. it seems like young girls who ship phan do so because they see in it what they desire in a relationship, whereas fancying dan as an individual instead focuses on him as a boyfriend or potential lover. a focus on the person rather than the qualities of the imagined relationship.

Part 3: Perspectives on Phan

2013

illegal_mind (7 Jan 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455
….the problem about the shipping is that there's actual evidence that they have dated. mostly stuff from 2009, when they had no problem with the shipping. now dan gets annoyed whenever proof shows up and calls it fake and bashes anyone that ships phan. when they had myspace, they stated their sexuality to be bisexual, and they said it so on formspring, even tho dan says the formspring answers were just jokes. youtubers that were aware of their relationship have let it slip, one of them was alex day. alex used to go hit on girls and tell them about his amazing youtuber life and how he's best friends with charlie mcdonnell and he did one time slipped and ended up telling some girls he knows that dan and phil date, if it is true, he found out through someone else because that happened before dan, phil and alex became friends. all youtubers seem to help them hide their relationship, whether they're still dating or not, their friends have covered for them all this time, at least from what i've heard, basically just by helping with the lies. there's a group of people in the phandom that have seen all this evidence and actually are irritated by the way dan treats anyone that mentions their relationship. also, dan lies about stuff and then his lies get caught. for example, he has told 3 different version of how he met phil. the original on vyou, a completely different one on younow, and then another different one again on younow (a couple weeks after the other younow version) that was close to the one on vyou. that and the fact that he insist he and phil DON'T share clothes, when there's video evidence that they indeed do, makes people in the phandom not believe in everything he says…

illegal_mind (8 Jan 2013) https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&start=20
… i think it would've been better if, after the video got leaked, they had told the truth. they didn't really have a big following in 2010, dan only hit 200k in early 2012, so by now, everyone would be completely used to them dating, there wouldn't have been such a big fuss about it, they'd still be able to keep their relationship private, and the phan shippers (myself included) wouldn't dig into stuff to find proof of their relationship

Ali9799 (27 Jan 2013) -
https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=2455&sid=6f2c58cfb9cf970f03d03edf817b4699&start=140
…. Even on Dan's video "Dan vs. Phil" there used to be annotation that said " and don't comment saying Team Phil/Dan . say Team PHAN!! yeah" and now that's gone too.

I'd like to point out a few things however. Although there is a lot of evidence that Phan is real, some Phans take it too far and make up non-existent proof making the rest of the shippers look stupid. For example: Some phan shippers say that in the "How to make christmas cookies" video, dan and phil had their fingers intertwined but if They both have different skin tones and those hands were both Dan's. Another example is in the Truth or Dare 2 video. Phil appears to be behind Dan and they say he's sitting on his lap. No he isn't sitting on his lap, idiots. He's sitting on a chair obviously. Goodness .... -__-
And no, Phans are not as bad as Directioners. I like 1D's music but I refuse to call myself a "directioner" cuz I don't fall into that category. But I'm fine with calling myself a Phan.

Affi (10 Feb 2013) https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?f=183&t=4583&start=600

Reading through these posts I realised how funny this situation is. Everyone talks as if their relationship is common knowledge, and the fact that people are so quick to believe a complete stranger when they say that they know the relationship is real, but aren't willing to believe half of their ship when he says that there's nothing going on, it's amusing to look at.
In reality, there isn't any actual proof. I feel the need to mention this when it seems people are getting a bit lost in this phan world. Imagine for a second that they were never together romantically, and please, don't quote this and say "there's too much evidence for me not to believe it". Just imagine if everything's really just been blown out of proportion, imagine the strain on their friendship.
I'm sure this post won't be acknowledged, but I needed to get it out anyway.

llamallama (17 Feb 2013) https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?f=183&t=4784&start=140
My concern about phan is whether more people trying to prove that phan was real or that it still is real. Cause I've only seen Dan's responses to people who are trying to prove it is real now, not to people who have evidence to prove it was real in the past. Either kind of evidence can hurt his and Phil's reputations (evidence that actually proves it, not just people shipping it and posting old stuff), but Dan only seems concerned about disproving its current existence.
I see four scenarios that could have happened:

1. They were together since 2009 or so and are still just as together today, and are trying (but kind of failing) as hard as possible to hide any past or present evidence

2. They were together back in 2009/2010 (maybe even 2011 or early 2012) but decided to distance themselves (not necessarily a full on break up but they decided to stop doing things that created speculation)...and now that they actually aren't together anymore Dan gets pissed everytime someone suggests that they are

3. They weren't in a relationship in the past but have bonded and grown towards each other over time, and actually have reason to try to hide evidence because they don't want people to know it's real now (they can justify saying old photos/comments/tweets/formspring answers don't prove anything because maybe they don't, and they have just gotten better at not doing that kind of stuff anymore)

4. They never were together and any kind of evidence doesn't prove anything...maybe they were able to just be really intimate friends in the past and are still just as close now, but try to stop shippers and evidence because they truly were never dating

All these seem entirely plausible to me (maybe not 3 but definitely 1 and 2), and I don't know which one I want to be true. I'm the kind of fan that thinks they're better for each other than any girl could be, so I'm hoping that they at least attempted a serious relationship at some point in the last four years. 4 could still be true though, because they've both been with girls in the past and for all the evidence that tries to prove phan there is still evidence that logically disproves it.

2014

illegal_mind (6 Mar 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=400
…there's hundreds of possibilities as to why they decided to go back into the closet(because they've stated in the past that they're bisexual) and why they keep the relationship a secret. i think it's mostly privacy. they couldn't imagine that they'd become popular and have so many people talking about their lives and digging into their past, so back then, hiding it might've been a good idea, for privacy, but then the hole got deeper and deeper and they(mostly dan) kept filling it with lies, lies and more lies, and now, if they come out, they'd be revealing that they're dating and everyone would be supportive, but at the same time, people would be pissed because of all the lies. if they've been lying about their sexuality and relationship for all these years, what else could they be hiding, what else is a lie? it'd make some fans lose trust in them

Hippo (6 Mar 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?p=722873#p722873
They're boyfriends. Anyone who can't see that is wearing glasses colored with wish fulfillment and a bit of homophobia.

horatio (27 Mar 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=560
I never really considered it and thought the whole thing was completely the domain of fanfiction until I saw that Valentines Day video. It seems so genuine and not funny at all, if you were pretending to be in a relationship would you not go a little bit more overboard? And just to confirm, it was only ever available briefly and accidentally, right?

I did think, if you wanted to keep it quiet, why even risk it by recording and uploading something like that? But I guess YouTube is what brought them together, so it is quite a romantic gesture. Also if they werent so private about it then. It's just a shame they don't feel able to be more open. I mean, I'm not asking for 'The Boyfriend Tag' FFS but just an acknowledgement of it, that they've got nothing to be ashamed of.

gr4pefruits (19 May 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=760
It's actually kind of pathetic, the amount of discussion that surrounds the depth of their friendship. I hate it when people say shit like this, but I really do wish people would just leave them be. Friends or something more, WHO CARES. They're both adults. They know what they're doing. Neither of them pander to their audience's invasive questions like other YouTubers. It would make sense if people speculated about daily vloggers or something, but Dan and Phil never had that sort of content on their channels. They found their online personas and that's as much as anyone is going to get.

whyamihereee (30 Sep 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=520
I'm going to live in denial land right here and pretend Phil is the only one gay and I still have chances with Dan

whyamihereee (c. 30 Sep 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=520
I seriously don't think they're gay or in a relationship with one another, from experience I can tell you that it's pretty common to spend that amount of time without any commitment (relationship wise) specially at that age. Not that they were ever really public on any personal information. They've always been really private, there was even a time when I thought they would just stop living together and end it all (friendship) when the rumors started becoming a bit too much. Even that time when Dan got really frustrated with a girl on Tumblr, telling her to stop with the Phan comments. Both seem like the kind of guys who would be completely comfortable with saying they're gay or in a relationship... In all honesty I think they have a genuine friendship and nothing more.

Tate (c. 30 Sep 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=520
…Phil is definitely more confident and comfortable with himself, but Dan has struggled with his confidence and sense of self many times in the past, plus he mentioned being teased (including people saying he was gay) back in school. I don't think Dan would be at all comfortable yet saying he was gay, or bi, or in a relationship and Phil would of course support him in that. Keep in mind that Phil never really outright addressed this in the ways Dan has, and Dan has never said he is not bi, he only says he is not gay. Perhaps he is overly defensive because of things said to him in the past. Also, remember that Dan is younger than Phil and may indeed overcome his fears regarding his personal relationship with Phil sometime in the near future. I cannot say with any authority since obviously I don't know them, and I'm neither gay or bi, but I honestly think they are in a relationship. I have been in love before and married (yeah, I'm older than you I'm sure) and to me it definitely seems like they are in love and in a long term, comfortable relationship.

northern native (2 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=560
Can I jump in even though I've only been on this website for less than a day? I hope so.

The video is honestly what starting shining light on the possibility of Phan because as much as Dan wants to deny it for damage control, that's the most sincere and serious Phil had been on his channel yet. Yes, it totally could be a joke, but Dan's formspring (I'm sure you've all seen the infamous three love formspring) would have been so dumb, like yes, he could have met another girl right after he broke up with his "last known girlfriend," but the dates as sync up so well. Also youtube was relatively new when Phil joined and people didn't really care about the video creators in 2010, at least not the massive extent they do know. The only real ship videos on youtube where like Ron and Hermione ones, no one was really shipping youtubers enough that someone had to make a video to troll them, it's not like the video came out a year ago which then obviously would be a joke. I do not know if Phan is real, but I think there is a real possibility of it and hey they are both making serious bank off that realm of possibility, whether Dan likes it or not.

Nana (2 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=560
I was just like you, thinking that people were just obsessed with shipping them, until I saw the video. That got me doubting, even when Dan insisted that it was a prank, because it felt too real (besides, let's remember that Dan has told a bunch of stories, like the pannic button one, where after a mistake he kept lying and lying about his innocence until people dropped the matter). Then someone here linked that timeline document and I'm now convinced that they are/were together. I remember a screencap from Dan's twitter where he said something along the lines of "X actress just watched me have sex" with a picture of a poster by Phil's bed.

northern native (3 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=620
After years and years of watching both of them and think nothing of Phan other than a friendship, I now am doubting everything after rewatching the v-day video and the formspring answers and the bi questions. Like horatio said "the lady doth protest too much." Most people who aren't gay/bi who get asked if they are gay/bi don't really care or get offended because it's not true and they know it, but Dan overreacts to the max. Phil plays it quite cool (or just ignores it) which seems more of the way to get around it if you don't want to be asked about it.

Also since the v-day video was uploaded in 2010 and the glitch was in 2011(?) 2012(?) they would've had literally year(s) to post it as a joke, but Phil just left it private? Why wouldn't you release on April Fools 2010? or 2011? or 2012? It just seems very strange too me, but I could be looking too much into it.

Hippo (4 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=640
Frankly, I don't see it as a question of have they ever been together. I find a question of if they are still or not. I honestly don't see how anyone could watch The Valentine's Day Video and question that. It doesn't make sense as a prank because it's not funny. It's sweet and actually pretty damn moving, in my opinion. If Phil was acting, he's missing his life's calling because he's apparently got a serious talent that he's never made use of before or since.

Phlebotomy (20 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=860
I think Phil's a lot more confident about his sexuality and its irrelevance to the content he puts out as AmazingPhil. For Dan, the distinction is not so easy. Dan's online persona is very intertwined with his own (ambiguous) sexuality, and he tends to choose to respond to a lot more comments about his sexuality than Phil does - seriously, the amount of times he gets defensive over the tiniest things makes me wonder what his deal is.

But really, I think people should start accepting that Dan and Phil being sexually ambiguous is not necessarily an omission of homo or heterosexuality. People seem to understand that Dan and Phil are (may be? since Dan was pretty upset about being labelled that way) bisexual, but they don't understand that even if Dan and Phil are doing the dirty, it doesn't just turn off the "I like women" part of their brains. There's such an emphasis on "coming out as gay" from certain parts of the phandom and it really makes me feel sorry for everyone involved. There's not even be anything to "come out" about, there isn't going to be a giant gay announcement like, "surprise, me and Phil started doing the horizontal limbo so now we are totally incapable of being attracted to women".

managed (31 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=140
I guess that's what makes them interesting as a pairing: there tends to be a bit of doubt on both sides, and you just kind of have to shrug your shoulders because we'll never know until something is outed.

I personally feel like it requires less mental gymnastics to believe the ~PHAN IS REAL~ side. Less jumping through hoops to explain why the V-day video could be a prank, why the old tweets and formsprings answers are jokes, why they've been conveniently "single" since meeting each other with no real rumor of them dating someone else, why they've built a home with each other without expressing future plans to separate etc. That's not to say that the ~PHAN IS NOT REAL~ theories are impossible; they're just mostly too hypothetical and unlikely when compared to other possibilities. Though, many of the theories for Dan and Phil being a couple go overboard too tbh.

But like, it makes sense to me that a low-down same-sex couple trying to salvage their BFF persona would come up with the most believable lie they could think of to quickly shut down rumors and hysteria, especially when Dan has that history of lying. I'd like to see him explain the video (in length) on camera, because it's easy to make up stories behind a keyboard. I think Phil seems genuine in the video itself. I would probably laugh and feel awkward professing my love to someone on camera too, even if I sincerely meant it. Dat just me tho...

Also, the more I think about it, the less surprised I am that someone hasn't outed them completely. I can think of a few big name YTers that I'm almost sure aren't straight/ aren't in platonic relationships, but haven't heard a peep out of anyone within their circle or the general YT community.

Nana (2 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=160
You know,I used to think Phan fangirls were like those fangirls who love to ship gay pairings like SwanQueen, JohnLock or Destiel until I watched the Valentine's Day video. Then I was on the fence, I started doubting but well, if they said it was a joke...

The one thing that fully convinced me that they were together for sure (and maybe still am, that I don't know) was that twitter archive thing that was going around a short time ago, specifically a tweet by Dan saying something along the lines of "Uma Thurman just saw me having sex" with a pic of the Kill Bill poster Phil had by his bed.
Like, come on, how do you explain that??

I can't be sure about their current relationship, and believe me, I don't ship Phan at all, but I'm positive those two were fucking for a while after they met.

Amazinglyonfire (8 Dec 2014) -
https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&sid=3c3adb83d5a266b07f7c8c139fe2163e&start=860

… I'm a bit older than Phil. I'm gay and have been in a relationship for a couple years. I've been watching Dan and Phil's video's since I sat in a hospital bed (he was very ill at the time) with my partner descending through the youtube depths and came across Dan by accident, then drifted toward Phil.

I've managed to avoid many trends, and "shipping" is one of them (I'm too old for that anyway), therefore I never shipped Phil and Dan. Didn't even consider them being anything more than best friends until I came across a video that had Dan on it. Not sure if it was Vyou or YouNow. Anyway, someone said he was mean to Phil. It's on youtube, and I think you can find it fairly easily. What struck me the most is how ANGRY that made Dan. I don't often see genuine emotions from Dan, but this looked like it was true "what the f**k did you just say?" kind of attitude. It touched a nerve, big time.

That, right there, is more than a reaction from a best friend. That's emotional, passive aggressive, anger. Which showed me that, regardless of their status ... they are truly bonded together in a way that most people can't understand. I think putting a label on it would be a disservice to both because it wouldn't do it justice. Then last years VidCon there's the famous "Phil would like to express an opinion" moment. That pretty much solidified their relationship for me.

There does seem to be a time where they were tense with each other. I think PINOF 4 is probably the best example, particularly the bloopers. There's a scene where Dan is rubbing his butt, kind of inappropriately, and Phil kind of shouts at him...which is unusual for Phil. Looked real. That whole era of videos stands out as a very tense period for them. I will say, that there seems to have been a dramatic change because they both look content with each other now like their Manchester days. I think working together at the BBC helped that, and I think Dan appreciates Phil more now for how absolutely creative he is.

I don't know the true nature of their relationship but my gaydar says they both ike men. For some reason particularly with Phil. I'm speculating a bit, but I think Dan has an unhappy family life and I think he adores Phils family (hell, Phils brother seems to be running their shop page). I think that contributes to the emotional bond they have. Dunno. We could all be wrong and they have separate flats and use that house as a staging area. lol

One last thing (sorry about the length of this post!). I think it's a remarkable achievement that, despite his unusual and quirky personality, that Phil has over 2 million subscribers. People always say that he should have more, but I take the other view and say that despite him not having the so-called "looks" of Dan (which is entirely subjective) that young teen girls like, and the fact that he is slightly off kilter with personality, he has 2 million people who have decided to subscribe to his channel. That should be inspirational for everyone rather than a moment of pity. Phil is inspiring in a "be yourself and you'll be successful" way. That's sexy in ways that most people can't even touch…

MeAndMyCrew (20 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=460
How am I the only one who's suspicious of Dan & Phil having broken up in 2012 and of Phil and Cat having a 1 or 2 year relationship??? I mean Phil's pretty sneaky, perfectly 'innocent' and a master of keeping things hidden, but do people really only think the reason they clung to Cat is because they had no other options??? I don't personally like Cat or anything and it makes me slightly repulsed to think it, but I swear people are too caught up in old 'signs' and 'clues' to D&P's orientation and closeness to see other possibilities. Cat is not the easiest or most rewarding person to watch, but I swear she gave some of their secrets away over time. Of course nobody would notice because nobody gives Cat the time of day, but I just suspect them.

Dan makes a great foil too since everyone here already admits they're 'always' together, it would be perfect for Phil to rendezvous with his 'just-a-good-friend' if everyone takes for granted he and Dan are so desperately in love and tragically co-dependent. I swear people are either missing or glossing over some other signs of Phil's separate, non-Dan liasons.

Btw, Cat did go through an awkward break-up period before Valentine's this year, and conveniently enough their Playlist interactions were kind of stilted and forced to me. That ink-blot video was weird to watch, and Phil's body language pretty much blocked or avoided her the whole video while she pretty much pandered and catered to him. Dan was an obvious third wheel, and she and Phil had a noticeable moment when she offered that she would never try to pin him down or control him; Phil went stone-faced. Dan pretty much deflected the whole video, but pretty much played 'mutual-friend-to-a-broken-up-couple.' Since then they've all died down in their public interactions over time.

Now, however, I swear Phil is 'up-to-something' again- call it a vibe- but I feel someone new might have popped up in his life. Someone else here suggested that a few times... I think we're picking up on the same thing.

If you REALLY think about it though, how convenient and perfectly GENIUS is it for everyone in the Phandom and on GG to keep linking D&P??? Everyone automatically assumes they're in love and NEVER bothers to look for anything else.

Cat stayed with them for SITC and ended up getting the flu as Phil had it, Dan on the other hand (if he's supposed to be up in Phil's crevices) should have been sick right alongside them, but he wasn't sick until a while afterward. Phil makes way more of an effort to accomodate Cat in old videos, gave her gifts for special occasions, has gotten mildly jealous or possessive of her in a few vlogs, had photos of him and her (separated from Dan) for Youtube events, and introduced her to PJ and Chris. I know Phil is a nice guy, but I don't believe that's the only reason. He's also played her 'homie' in the Makeup video where I swear Dan tried to crawl away from the both of them throughout it, and Cat was also known to get crazy on fans who got too close to Phil, not necessarily Dan. Yes Dan was around, but what else would he have done? They would've needed the cover to keep things from looking truly suspicious...

Personally, I don't care either way who they're with, but it fascinates me that no-one EVER looks into other possibilities, it's always 'Dan and Phil are forever together!' I think we could push our detective skills a bit further, they're probably old news as a romantic couple. I think there might be other options blooming and their friends and their automatic 'Phan-ness' keep them off of everone's radars!

On a separate note, Phil's voice is part of his attraction for me, don't know if anyone else is moved . And Dan's original 'mouthiness' and humour was part of his attraction to me... No questions asked on their appearance, I was sold.

Sorry for the long post, they'll be shorter from now, just had a LOT I was sitting on... Hope this was stimulating, let me know how you feel about a new Phil 'prospect' and thanks for reading!

illegal_mind (29 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=720
as a gay man, i can very easily tell if a dude likes dick or not. it has nothing to do with society's perceptions of what each sexuality is, it's my own intuition telling me that. i am 100% sure dan and phil like dick, i was also 100% sure about guys like tom daley and troye sivan, and i was right on.

one reason they might not come out is because dan and phil are 2 people that created online personas. danisnotonfire and amazingphil are like characters, and those characters don't have a specified sexuality, or are labeled as straight. so it doesn't make sense for the online personas to come out. it doesn't exactly fit their channels nor the personas. if dan and phil do come out, it won't be as amazingphil and danisnotonfire, it'll be as phil lester and dan howell, which means it probably won't be on their channels. perhaps a tumblr post, a tweet, very likely something that has more of a connection with their personal selves

Winterbury (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
…imo the biggest piece of 'pro-phan evidence' is… still the fact that they've never been spotted with anyone who couldn't have been easily classified as a friend. they've been on youtube for more than 5 years now, fans are everywhere and one of them going on a date with someone unknown wouldn't go by unnoticed.

this makes it pretty obvious to me that they're either romantically involved with eachother, hold their partners in their basement or are both secretly acromantic (which is pretty unlikely)

wisegirl (16 December 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
…What fascinates me most is how hard people try to prove or disprove. speculation & curiosity is one thing, but when it turns into a conviction that shuts down any other opinion than the conviction held or dismisses any other opinion, now that is fascinating. it presumed a level of certainty & knowledge that is just as fantasy-based as shipping. how opinions turn into dogmatic convictions. truly fascinating.

for me the strongest evidence of their bond, whether platonic or romantic, is the way they've entwined their lives. they not only created a mutual brand that ties their careers together, but socially are seen as a pair, and even personally. they do not discuss a future where they are separate. them being together in the forseeable future is granted for both of them. from equipment to accommodations, to business and career, to social life, they are a pair. it may be a platonic pair, but its still invariably tied together.

Amazinglyonfire (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=140
…I don't think it matters if Phan exists or not. Dan and Phil clearly have what I would term an extremely close bond that is actually extremely sweet. I think the only thing that matters is there is "love" there and it

makes them in combo all the more appealing. You take a look at "best friends" who are duos on youtube and I have yet to see any that are as close Dan and Phil …

managed (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
…Also, I agree that regardless of what their relationship status is, there's no denying that either one is probably the most important person in the other's life. Shippers like to romanticize it, but I've always thought the difference between "Phan" being real or not is basically: do they kiss/ sleep in one bed/have sex and could they possibly commit to each other and start a family if they remain together? Other than that, yeah they clearly have a close bond which is sweet either way. I still don't think they're platonic though.

illegal_mind (17 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
i agree that there's absolutely no way they could be in relationships with other people and the phandom not finding out. for starters, they're joined at the hip pretty much all the time, so it'd be a 24/7 third wheeling situation. the phandom is everywhere and it's quite easy for them to find where dan and phil currently are whenever they're out and about, and pretty much every time they're out, fans spot them and take photos with them. if they were in a relationship with someone else, the phandom would have uncovered it by now. so unless they're in a polygamous relationship with the invisible man, they've been single for many years.

2015

cleofatra (3 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=500
Haha, true, it's actually pretty difficult for anyone not to ship them, at least once in a while. They just give off this sort of aura which just intuitively feels much more intimate than an ordinary best-frienship. especially in the regards to the photos, as you mentioned, it is common for best friends to take ironically ugly selfies, but those aesthetically appealing shots when Dan is not looking into the camera, that is something what couples tend to do - as a gesture showing just how beautiful they find their other halves even they are not looking, and of wanting to preserve who they value most. seriously, no matter how many logical arguments are presented against a romantic relationship between them, and no matter how many times I start suspecting whether they never had anything at all, these tiny moments contradict all doubts and consolidate the belief that, yes, there was/is something there - because, in life, it's the smaller seemingly insignificant incidents that often speak volumes more than the more prominent bigger incidents. For any person who's thoroughly followed or dug up information their story, it's impossible not to find at least a slight romantic inclination - sure, they're best friends, but even more seems to exist, probably even the ideal case where one's best friend is also one's lover (yes, I was born a shipper).

managed (9 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=220

> **missemma wrote:**
> I'm interested to see if there are any users on here who don't think they were or ever were together?
>
> I honestly can't decide, at times I'm like "oh they definitely were/are" but then I see a video where either one of them makes a comment that makes me think they're just really good friends.
>
> The phan timeline obviously shows some flirty messages but I wish I had been a fan back then to see what their other tweets etc say as they're not widely available and all the ones that are on tumblr are the ones that only show them being flirty.

I'm waiting for some non-believers to poke their heads in too. It seems like most people here either think they're together or are on the fence. I've skimmed through some "anti-Phan" blogs, and none are too convincing when you realize they're basically repeating the non-Phan things Dan, Phil, and their friends have said. As if it never occurs to them that they all could be covering up, which as we all know is very common with YTers. Then what really gets me is when they literally have to fist themselves elbow deep to pull out excuses for why the V-day video isn't real, and I'm like, if that was true, why wouldn't Dan and Phil SAY that in their explanation to make their defense stronger? Like is you serious though?

FatPrincess (27 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15754&start=520
I think it's interesting that so many people discuss D&P sexualities. I've been watching them since the beginning (Phil is the only "veteran" YouTuber I'm still subscribed to after all these years) and in the early days, it wasn't this bad. I'm glad they've had so many good opportunities come their way because of their success, but I strongly dislike the "PHANdom."

Weighing in- My younger brother is gay, I'm pansexual. We both agree that their PERSONAS are on the Q U E E R (that is not being used as a slur, sweet jesus, there is a Q in LGBTQIA for a reason!) spectrum. But as for real life, who knows and why care?! It's deplorable to harass people to come out. And I could rant forever about shipping.... The whole thing is truly maddening.

Am I alone in this opinion?

illegal_mind (21 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16564&start=20
…about their sexuality, i do love when the anti-phans come in with their heteronormativity and bisexual erasure… any mention of attraction to another man, it's immediately for attention, or as a joke, or just fan service, but the minute he says something about a female, the anti-phans scream "SEE? STRAIGHT!!!! HE SAID HE LIKES A WOMAN. HE IS STRAIGHT". their point is simply to disprove phan, and the only way they can do that is by stating dan and phil are straight(apparently 2 non-straights can't be just friends). and then it comes to the ones that want to date dan or phil. because they see it, if dan and phil are straight, they're not dating each other, so they'd be open to date them[the fan].

yes, it's possible they no longer identify as bisexual, because it seems that, after the term pansexual became more known, more people started using it to identify themselves. so maybe now they identify as pansexual. maybe they still identify as bisexual. of one thing i'm sure, they're not straight. it has nothing to do with phan, it's my perception as a gay man. call it gaydar, 6th sense, whatever. we can "spot" each other, like a dog who can sense another dog nearby

mermaid blood (21 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16564&start=40

> **felucca wrote:**
> I'm a bit on the fence about it personally and I tend to agree with both sides. Sometimes I think I just want phan to be true so much it's clouding my judgement. And of course it doesn't help that there seems to be a more or less general consensus in this thread about at least the bisexuality part being true.

the problem with believing that they are not, and have never been, sexually involved - is that you have to accept every flirtatious advance by Dan prior to meeting, every romantic exchange leading up to and afterwards, and every mention of their sex life in 2009-2010, and finally the valentine's day video, was a deliberate collusion between them to lie, spanning over a year in length across several mediums and methods.

that is
a) difficult to believe about people you admire, as falsifying information to deliberately deceive for the purposes of either financial gain, or personal entertainment, is not honorable
b) difficult to justify in terms of practicality, planning and motivations

if someone can do the above, more power to them. i can't.

Amazinglyonfire (27 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16564&start=640
I honestly don't think their sexualities matter in the context of Dan and Phil because they are for all intents and purposes a couple. A very close one at that. It does seem that they are emotionally tied together in a very profound way, so whether they have sex or not simply doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things.

In that respect, they don't need labels. I think they are perfectly comfortable with their relationship (and it IS a relationship in almost every sense) as it is, and all their friends are aware of their close bond and remarkably respected it. What's funny is, people always focus on evidence they are gay in other youtubers vlogs ... what's always stood out to me is there is zero public evidence they are straight either (outside of old girlfriend pictures with Dan). No vlogger has been able to "out" Dan or Phil as straight either! Which cements in my mind their "couple" status. There's literally nothing you can point to that says they have something going on with anyone aside from each other.

It's another fascinating thing about Dan and Phil. The only thing you can point to that is concrete with either of them is that they are extremely close and seem to rely on each other heavily. I don't think those two need a label or coming out to validate anything publicly because ... well ... if you see them together that's all you need to know

Shameless (4 Mar 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16073&start=320
My friend and I have been subscribers to both of them since before 2010, maybe earlier, and we've always had a theory that they are only gay for each other. Has there ever been a discussion on this?

I honestly can't ever see them coming out of the closet as gays. I can, however, see them saying "yes we are a couple, deal with it". (If for some reason they were forced to, if evidence was accidentally outed ie. someone filming them in public, or physical stuff going unnoticed in the background of someone else's vlog and not getting picked up on until it's too late.)

I can see how their situation could come about, especially if both of them were open to being with someone of the same sex. And if anyone remembers, back in 2006-2009, (what i like to refer as the 'emo'

phase) a lot of people, especially guys, were extremely lax with their sexuality and it was actually 'cool' and very acceptable for guys to be bisexual, or what another poster referred to as "gay above the waist". (Open to making out with guys, but not really doing anything sexual)

If you go back to when pretty much everyone within the emo/alternative circles referred to themselves as bi, and then you have two reasonably attractive 'bi' friends move in together, it should come as no surprise that some sexual stuff might have happened. I think over time they just fell into a very married-couple type state.

And because they are such good friends and are already living together, and already do everything together, then why would they want to jeopardise their careers and whatnot by "coming out" when coming out won't actually change anything in their lives except for people's opinions of them? Coming out would achieve nothing for them, they already have their domestic bliss.

TL;DR I believe they are straight, except when it comes to each other, there is definitely something going on there.

CoralCat (6 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=120
Honestly sometimes I think that they must have had girlfriends/casual sex in the past few years but I don't really think so tbh,there's not many gaps in their social media such as Twitter, when they have friends round, it's always couples and them, surely they'd have their girlfriend too? I think it would be quite an act to keep hiding her.

And if they were having casual sex/one night stands I think someone would have seen, either one of the girls would be a fan or there'd be a fan in the club or bar or whatever, there's not even the slightest hint of them going to bars or clubs either.

wisegirl (17 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16261&start=580

> **Amazinglyonfire wrote:**
> Dan DOES give lingering looks to Phil and all I'd say is that it's just a sign they are very close. The double bed thing is interesting though. Although I have to get back up on my soap box that for some reason people (not GG ... I'm talking tumblr and other places) obsess on Dan's casual looks and not Phil. It is utterly fascinating how people regard Phil in the D&P equation. Almost like he doesn't really matter. It's an interesting case study in how people perceive relationships because everything Dan says or does in regards to Phil, almost as if anything coming from Phil's direction is incidental to their dynamic.

You are absolutely right. There are two reasons for this, i think. First it could be that dan is a bit more expressive both verbally and non-verbally and so people have picked up on those and are more familiar with his gestures and mannerisms. After all he tends to be "loud" in his gestures. Phil is less expressive and so most people overlook it. I've watched Phil's non verbal cues and find them fascinating, but in general people tend to be more interested in hearing an analysis of dan, which is a shame. Secondly, it is because the phandom is dan-centric. I mean to say this without judgement, but at the end of the day dan has more subscribers and his fans are far more fervent than phil's. It is always the fans of dan that fervently argue over his sexuality and his relationship and rise to his defense. We see this in the plethora of fan fiction that is written. With a few exceptions, dan is the centerpiece of the fiction. Even if the piece is written from Phil's perspective, the actual object of focus is Dan. Phil's action in the fan fiction serve the purpose of highlighting dan's feelings, dan's reactions, and dan's thoughts. In tragic fan fiction phil is usually dying. Even in non-phan fan fiction the large percentage of them are written about the writer and dan. There are less where Phil is imagined as a lover. This fantasy relationship carries over/is reflective of how people view dan and phil the people. phil takes on a passive role in the story of their lives. that is not to say people don't care about phil or don't like him. Its rather a subtle shif of the dynamic the phandom does in their perspecive. Hence the over abundance of dan touches, dan looks, dan statements. It misses quite a bit actually by focusing just on dan.

Now one can argue that it is about dan's "classic good looks" as some have mentioned even here on the forum themselves. No offense to anyone but this is just not true. Both boys are good-looking, but neither of them are stunners. There are far more attractive people on youtube alone than dan howell. It's dan's persona that draws people to hiim, his relatability, and that projection that make people either see themselves in him or can see themselves as a friend or lover to him. Those feelings often are translated into discussions of physicality because of the way the human psyche works. How someone makes us feel becomes translated into physical descriptions. Note the discussion on Dan's hands. Phil on the other hand projects strangeness and asexuality as his persona.

So what makes dan the center of the phandom? That perfect balance between relatable (seeing something familiar in him) and distance (making him cooler than he is). It may not be a popular opinion (pun intended) but its based on the analysis of the phandom itself and their interaction with dan and phil. Now, I personally am more drawn to Phil, so I find it a shame how much people miss, but hey to each their own.

Part 4: Speculation About Dan and Phil

2014

illegal_mind (29 Jan 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=940
the phandom has been doing some investigating, to try and figure out if dan and phil have been sleeping in the same bed. here's a post:

"yes, everyone has analysed the shoes and gone ‘aww look they lined their shoes up together’; and they've talked about the central window and how the view is designed for one bedroom only, and how the bed frame matches that of the double bed on the website; they've even discussed how clearly Anthony blocks out the view of the bed in the vlogs. He won’t go near it. He points, but doesn't go in, he looks at the window and the shoes rather than inside the room…Suspicious, no? But allow me to draw your attention to further cuteness, on your left. So whilst Cat may be shouting ‘two bedrooms, two bedrooms!’ in the background of this video, this particular screenshot reveals that not just Dan’s, but also Phil’s Vidcon Pass’ are hanging side by side outside the door to the sole bedroom of the suite. Easy access for both boys to grab and go as they exit the room."

besides the whole analyzes, the end part makes a good point. both their passes are on the same bedroom door. if there were 2 bedrooms, like cat wanted to make people believe, then there'd only be one vidcon pass hanging from that door, and the other would be hanging on the other bedroom's door

illegal_mind (29 Sep 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=520
i had a massive chunk of text explaining their living condition and it somehow disappeared, so i'll jus try to go over what i wrote.

dan was already flirting with phil when dan was still with his gf. he and his gf ended it because she was going to uni in a different city. after that dan was constantly going to phil's place. phil still lived with his parents and a lot of times his parents were away, so it was just dan and phil home alone. dan spent december 24th with the lesters and then caught a train back to wokingham(which is where he lived, near london). the vday video was made in 2010 and in that time dan was in india with his parents, the moment dan came back from india he went straight to manchester to see phil. dan moved to manchester for uni. he spent his first year i the dorms, but he spend a lot of time at phil's, he even had stuff like deodorant and a toothbrush there. phil lived in a 1 bedroom, and that couch was way too small for dan to sleep in, so he was definitely sleeping with phil in bed. then dan moved out the uni dorms and he and phil got a flat in the same building, this one with 2 bedrooms. it was always believed phil's was their bedroom, because dan's looked more like a set. and they've been living together ever since. they've said they don't plan on moving out into different places any time soon. when in manchester, they were pretty isolated, in their own little world, because all the youtubers they were friends with lived in london or near london. so it was just the 2 of them for the most part, which made them really co-dependent of each other.

in the past 5 years, there's been shipping with girls. there was never more than that. it's just that whenever dan and phil are seen with a female, people assume they're dating her. they were seen at zoe's party with hazel and people started rumors phil was dating her, she has a boyfriend. people have even created rumors that dan was dating cat(barf i know). relationships with other people was never anything else than the fans freaking out and assuming they were dating someone, and it was always a girl, because these fans either didn't know dan and phil have stated they're bi, or they know it and think they're

straight now. there was never any sort of evidence pointing to them dating someone else. the only evidence to ever exist of them being in a relationship is with each other

managed (4 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=640
I remember I watched one of Phil's day in the life vlogs, and when he went to Dan's room, something about the bed looked like he had just crawled under the covers moments before Phil walked in. Like there hardly any wrinkles or dents in the pillow or bed sheets to indicate that a giant man had been lying there for several hours, yet they tried to pass it off as if Dan had just woken up from a deep slumber. Meanwhile the shot of Phil's bed looked a bit more like two bodies had been lying there, even after the bed was made. And their hair was suspiciously laid, unless they wear head scarves to bed lmfao. I just wasn't buying the "just woke up" gag. Made more sense that they'd planned to film it that way.

Loki_Booman (4 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=640
also aother thing that makes me think theyre together are the bedrooms. we know they are both messy people (we see Dans room in the videos and from live shows we see Phil leaves stuff EVERYWHERE) yet Phils room is always spotless like nothing has been moved in there for ages. Its like a set.

illegal_mind (4 Oct 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=12367&start=640
it's funny because that's pretty much what people said about the manchester flat, but the other way around. that phil's looked like their room and dan's looked like a set.
dan's room in this flat is bigger, because it's not actually a bedroom, it was a dinning or living room, it has the same format as their lounge, even with the 3 windows, the apartment had 1 bedroom, 1 office, 1 dinning room, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, and the laundry room. they turned the one that has the fireplace into their lounge, and the other one into dan's room. while phil's is smaller, has a wardrobe built into the wall and only has 1 window.

i think dan's room also has better internet signal(probably because it's closer to the router).

i don't doubt that at times they'd sleep in separate rooms tho, especially if they're sick(it's annoying as fuck waking up in the middle of the night because your boyfriend is having a coughing fit)

wisegirl (11 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=300
ok as promised here is the analysis. It is really long so i've only included what I got out of it personally so these are my notes. and i wanted him to see pinof6. i don't know if it adds anything new but it may be interesting insight for some & good fodder for discussion. Also note that my friend is a professional at profiling & body language but he is the first to admit that it is an art not a science. After his analysis i showed him some of the body language analysis on tumblr & he said they are doing it wrong. So I don't their methods but i can say that even though he may claim its an art he hasn't been wrong yet. But still grain of salt is good.

i asked my friend to do this because i couldn't make up my own mind. in reality there isn't anything in their friendship that really points to a relationship. i mean they have separate rooms & beds & people to explain that away are pulling some heavy mental gymnastics. their beds also aren't that big and they are big guys. also in comparison to other straight male youtube friends their physical interaction is pretty limited & platonic. heck the straight male youtubers are far more flirty with one another. but there was something about their friendship. i couldnt put my finger on it or point to any one thing so that was the motivation to having someone objective look at it.

long post so bear with me. Also brackets are some random thoughts of my own.

dan: hes self-centered & generally only thinks about his own little world. hes smart but not as smart as he thinks he is. his condescending tone & sarcasm is tied to him feeling superior to others & used as a distancing tool. hes very conscious & worried about other people's perception of him & seeks social approval. his motivation & self-worth come externally. has a harsh streak especially when annoyed. enjoys attention but when its in mass form rather than directed. he gets self conscious & uncomfortable in more intimate settings because he gets tripped up with his thoughts. hes demanding and defiant. wants to do things his way which makes for a love hate relationship with his public persona. he wants people to like him so he'll ask for approval for things like fashion, ideas, but when he gets push back he will stick to it defiantly. he is still figuring out who he actually is. he is struggling with who he wants to be. his online persona is not inauthentic, it is actually who he is. it simply is those parts of him that he thinks people like the most & relate to. jealous & compares himself to others. very competitive. romantic, sentimental, and emotional. expressive to the point where he cant hide his emotions well.

phil: extremely creative & thinks abstractly, visionary-type. very shy with internal locus of control. he doesnt do well in larger groups settings as it puts pressure on him. he is aware of his shyness & overcomes it especially in more intimate and one-on-one interactions. compassionate, caring, & considerate. he seems to have a good deal of empathy. stubborn streak that will not back down when he thinks hes right. ambitious but doesnt know where it is exactly taking him. he knows exactly who he is as a person & accepts himself fully. mostly private but personable so he is willing to share his personal life but only things he feels comfortable with. competitive but not destructively. wants people to like him but is less concerned with what they think of him. very good at keeping his facial expressions in check. makes him good at keeping secrets. loyal & unfailingly devoted. family-oriented, encouraging & supportive. forgetful & scatterbrained. sentimental & romantic.

Them as a unit: they work very well together. dan is concerned with what people think of him and so tries to appear cool, likable, or play up what they want to see from him. phil wants people to like him but does so by simply being friendly & endearing. they argue quite a bit. dan has a harsh side & lashes out when hes frustrated. phil is pretty unaffected by it though & doesnt react. phil expresses his anger and irritation more slowly by picking away & nagging until he gets what he wants. phil is the more ambitious of the two & the motivation behind business ideas & more comfortable with self-promotion. dan is more fame-centered not because he wants to be famous or special but needs the affirmation. they take care of one another. dan helps keeps phil grounded & phil helps dan through his internal struggles. they influence each others videos, even if they arent in the video they are filming or editing one another. they are more present in each others videos than people realize. dan is the more frequent liar but he gets caught up in his own thoughts where phil is more skilled in keeping his face impassive making him a better liar. socially they function very effectively. they are a strong unit. in interactions that are more one-on-one or in small groups phil takes the charge but during stage performances dan takes the lead. they are comfortable with this & take their cue from one another. they are each other's social reference meaning that in parties they tend to keep one eye on each other & will frequently either stand together or if they mingle will use the other person as their reference point. they've both struggled with being seeing as individuals & try to separate themselves but how they want to be seen & how they function is two separate things. pinof6 & new merch is effectively them marrying their careers together. sexuality wise they are both aware of certain norms & cautious of that. dan in particular seems to have some response to the word gay directed at him, likely invokes certain experiences for him from younger years. dan is more comfortable with bending gender norms & enjoys playing the feminine up in his looks & appearance. Less comfortable with fluid sexuality. they should be taken at their word when they say they like women, likely heteroflexible rather than outright bisexual. may tend towards women with certain exceptions, like each other if they are together. [my friend noted this last part about sexuality was mostly speculation]

Relationship thoughts: there was a very clear romantic dimension to their early relationship. none of the “sexual” tweets or even the umma tweet are an indication of a sexual relationship. those are inside jokes. dan in particular likes ambiguous & suggestive humor. sexual language is part of his vernacular; “sexual” “erotic” etc. the romantic element comes from the meal bought by phil. [interesting because not many people seem to focus on that. yes the screenshot is on it but most of the focus is on talk of sexuality and the other tweets] buying him that meal was a romantic gesture & commemorating something important. The vday video is likely real rather than a prank. it was sincere & spontaneous & dan tweet afterward confirm it was meant for him and private. [apparently dan tweeted “awrf” on the day the video was uploaded] there is no way to tell if they broke up or not as some claim they did. however they definitely struggled in 2012 & 2013. the strain can be seen because dan in particular wanted to stand out as an individual. it has also been hard for phil to be surpassed by dan as phil does sometimes feel he is compared to dan especially in terms of looks. phil is still very supportive & happy for dan. there was some event that happened in 2014 that we have not seen. Something happened between them. they are happier & seem to have sorted something out. [my friend even jokingly said it was either dan suddenly realizing how empty his life would be without phil & fearing losing him or they got married. he is joking of course but i think he’s right that something has happened in 2014.] also pinof6 may be more polished but its actually quite authentic. they enjoyed filming it & showed more of their normal interaction. he says it was not fanservice. they think it is quite special & make an effort in it. it may be more scripted but they are still putting themselves in it.

he concluded by saying that they likely had a romantic dimension at one point but it is impossible to tell now. he said hed love to see the unedited version of pinof1 & pinof6 [wouldn’t we all?] but because we only see an iota of their lives there really is no clear indication of a present relationship. dan’s eye contact isn’t too telling as he tends to look people in the eye when he talks to them, its just something he does and their physical touches are actually quite friendly and far from romantic. So either the romantic dimension has faded or they are older & more private about it. they do function as a pair & see themselves in each other’s future. he also warns that the phandom should probably not pressure them too much as even if they are together they are unlikely to ever come out together. he explained that it is not unlike the story to bridge to terabithia which is mine and his favorite book. when dan first started following phil he was struggling badly. he was coming out of a relationship, his friends were leaving for uni, & dan didnt know where his life was headed. dan also struggled quite a bit socially as he wanted to be liked but he was likely bullied. while he’s not homophobic he does have an adverse reaction to being called “gay” & this sprung up during this time. he sees phil and is drawn to him. they develop a friendship & when they meet dan is swept up. phil has created his own little fantasy world where they film, have fun, & escape from everything going on in their lives & dan is drawn into that. it is their own private little world that they share only glimpses of with everyone else. it makes their friendship unique & very private. it is why they guard it. he also thinks sexuality wise dan may identify as straight but found himself attracted to a guy, not all guys but one in particular. it may not be a popular opinion, but psychology is swinging in the direction of recognizing self-identification as equally important as biology & the act of sex.

he said a lot more but it was more oriented towards the phandom & and some of dans responses so i’ll end here since its pages and pages & can share later those bits. there were two more things i wanted to show him but i don’t know if they exist anymore. apparently there was another phanesque video that was unprivated along with the vday video but no one saw it or saved it because everyone was focused on the vday one & apparently there was this one tumblr that has evidence of them kissing but they vanished and not the doctored photos, I mean. I don’t know if this as helpful for everyone else as some of it is pretty standard stuff but for me it gave insight into their dynamic and that sexuality thing makes sense. It is kind of like the tom daley thing where he said he’s still attracted to girls but found himself in love with a man and it was a process of coming to terms with that. also I think the bridge to terabithia analogy makes

sense and refutes this idea that they became co-dependent or this happened in Manchester. I think the very friendship or relationship, or whatever it is based on that earlier interactions. but that's just me. Anyway sorry for the long post.

wisegirl (11 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=320
…the sexuality bit was totally speculation. he says you cannot tell sexuality like that. now im totally speculating here because i dont know the psych bit but i work in feminist and queer theory in history & in there we argue that sexuality is arbitrarily defined by society. our concepts of "straight" and "gay" are entirely modern & hardly progressive. maybe we are more accepting but our act of labeling comes out of a trend of trying to control & define. self-identification plays a role as does biology.

in dans case i think that it is partly his refusal to be put in a box or labelled. take a look at his defiant answer where he says "so what if i was gay" or his response to his "ugly tshirt" you see a defiance. he seems to be defiant to "conventional" labels. also i think its a process for him. i know it is popular to think you just know from a young age but sexuality is an exploration for some people. think of it this way dan may have been attracted to guys before but phil is the first guy hes been with or loved (if they are together) & he still likes girls. he doesnt know what that makes him. so it makes his answers ambiguous & confusing. hey that actually makes sense haha. again its speculation on my part.

there is a phil bit on sexuality as well, i just missed it. there is over 50 pages in this analysis... he says that phil was more open about his attraction to men & openly flirted early on. he has toned it down but it seems it is because he is conscious of his audiences age. while he does talk about women more now he can more comfortably profile phil as bisexual but again its speculative rather than more definitive.

sweetmm (18 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=180
My own thoughts of if currently they are an item hows their living condition will be; Dan's room is their shared bedroom whilst Phil's is the guest bedroom. The wardrobe they built together is in Dan's room so they'll be using that for their clothes that needs hanging whereas the folded ones will be kept in Phil's room which has the drawer cabinet. Phil also have a trunk in his room for them to store all their props. Since their bedroom is Dan's room it is no wonder if its always messy; someone noted that in one of Dan's younow they had seen Phil's shirt on the floor. End of my theory, if they are a couple If they are not, Phil has cleaned up good for someone who is still messy (Dan still complains about his socks lying everywhere).

cleofatra (22 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=220
...I mean, regarding the LED lights from Dan's bedroom...

Now usually, you wouldn't suddenly change the location of something if it was being frequently used in its original location, would you, especially if that thing didn't eexactly belong to you?

That is, if those lights were already being used in Dan's bedroom (and in all the videos where Dan shows himself lying on his bed, those lights are always on), it wouldn't have been normal for Phil to use those lights to decorate the office sofa, would it? They obviously have more strings of lights elsewhere (probably), or Phil could have just chosen some other decoration which was just lying about without being used. And besides, wouldn't Dan notice even once if indeed Phil snuck into his bedroom to get the lights, given thay Dan mostly spends his time either in the lounge or his own bedroom? Surely he must have gone into his bedroom at least once after Phil "borrowed" his lights and found them missing?

Does that mean Dan's bedroom is not currently being used...or am I just "fanon goggling"? Probably the latter. I'll shut up now.

Amazinglyonfire (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
They definitely have a strong bond. Funny thing though, the more I explore through their videos ... the more I'm extremely intrigued and I question things. As someone who is still on the fence on whether Phan exists as a sexual/full on relationship I am picking up on little things that don't really make sense.

Phil is messy right? I think both Dan and Phil have stated that Phil tends to be the guy who leaves cabinets open and his room was a wreck. What's interesting to me is how sterile Phil's room is in their London home. It has no character to it. It's just Phil's comforter and pillows and an extremely clean room that seems more like a movie set to me than a room. Even in Phil's old younows from London his room is just so sterile.

Whereas his Manchester room was very much "lived in". Messy even in younow vids (and particularly Dan's prank video). That strikes me as a bit ... odd. Not sure what to read in to it to be honest. There is virtually no character to Phil's room. Just a dresser and a bed. Whereas Dan's room is huge, has furniture all over it, lots of windows and looks "lived in".

Dunno. Not sure what that means but it strikes me as strange. Could be that Phil is taking more care to clean his room, but that wouldn't explain why his room looks so...un Phil-like.

illegal_mind (25 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=400
part of the phandom uses them not spending christmas together as proof they're not together, the other part sees it as being completely understandable that they spend christmas with their respective families. after all, right after christmas, they go back to each other and spend new years together. we don't really know what dan's family thinks of phil, although adrian stated once on tumblr that he likes phil, and has watched some of his videos(that was like 2 years ago tho). and dan is basically an honorary lester, in 2009, he spend like a week with the lesters in manchester, and then only left for his parents' on the 24th.

i don't find it odd at all they don't spend christmas together, especially since their families live so far apart. and considering phil's super attached to his, he wouldn't skip spending christmas with them… if dan and phil were married and they went their separate ways on christmas, then it'd be a bit weird, but if they're just dating, spending christmas with their respective families isn't strange at all. if they were to alternate which family they'd spend christmas with, they'd basically neglect the other's family. if the families lived closer together, they could spend christmas eve with one and christmas day with the other, but one lives in the south of england and the other in an island near the norther coast of england. and like i said, considering how attached phil is to his family, i doubt he'd skip spending christmas with them, to spend it with dan and the howells. dan himself would probably feel bad about it, because he'd know phil was missing his family, who he doesn't get the chance of seeing as often, because of distance(which is why he's always visiting them, or they're visiting him in london)

2015

wisegirl (16 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16261&start=500
i'm not really a body language expert but i've picked up a few things from my friend and most of the stuff i've noticed are actually subtle things from the analysis that i posted a while back. none of it proves phan but it does speak to a level of physical intimacy that's interesting. off the top of my head, dan's touches on phil's shoulder or back during public events. while others swoon over this because its a touch and because any touch between those two is enough to cause some to freak out, what is interesting about those touches is that they are attempts at reassuring phil. he also tends to nod or make small non-verbal gestures towards phil during public performances. this highlights dan's care for phil. he is helping put his friend at ease, letting him know that he's there. it's quite touching. in return the physical touch also assures dan. if you watch them sit next to one another they lean into each other. the physical proximity and touch is an act of reassurance as if to draw comfort and confidence from the other. its a small act, but it creates a bubble where they feel safe. an almost "we're in this together" act. the only exception to this is when they are around cat when it seems they relax a bit more. dan also tends to glace at phil's lips when phil is talking. he does it very quickly and most seem to miss it as they are focused on "heart eyes" but the glance at the lips is usually followed by a small move of dan's own lips, its involuntary and he doesn't know he does it. either he purses them slightly or he bites them. finally, the mirroring of body language. they mirror one another, sometimes even mouthing what the other is saying. it doesn't prove a romantic relationship but only the closest of individuals exhibit all of these behavior ticks. most best friends don't do all of these. there is a lot more but this is off teh top of my head... i really should look through that analysis again.

Part 5: Queerbaiting & Fanservice

2014

Phlebotomy (7 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=240
some tumblr people are yelling about queerbaiting, but mostly without any good arguments. while I do agree that Dan and Phil queerbait to a certain extent, I can't even blame Dan and Phil because their fandom is so goddamn thirsty it takes eye contact as a sign of DTF.

I ain't even mad, man. The fanservice is cringey, but I'm like YEAH MONETISE THAT SHIT. I'M PROUD OF YOU FOR KNOWING YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC SO WELL. I'M PROUD OF YOU FOR KNOWING HOW TO MANIPULATE YOUR AUDIENCE. YOU'RE DOING SMART BUSINESS AND I LIKE THAT. I'M PROUD OF YOU.

(Sure, I mourn the loss of their authenticity. But it's definitely not as bad as it could be. As long as they don't start plugging irrelevant products, I'm cool.)

Phlebotomy (7 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=240

> **imphanaf wrote:**
>
> > **Phlebotomy wrote:**
> > The queerbaiting allegations didn't sit right with me. I'm trying to figure out why and how to articulate why I don't feel like it's right to label whatever they're doing as queerbaiting, but I just don't like it. But anyhow, I genuinely enjoy Phil's content and I like watching two men yell at each other while gaming, so I'm going to keep watching.
>
> it's wrong because it's literally pure speculation. we do not know any circumstances on how the video was produced, why did they include or deleted certain parts, neither who was it targeted to, it's just a bunch of teens and 20 y.o's saying what they interpreted of the video, with literally no justification whatsoever.
>
> i'm pretty sure 80% of the people who were talking about *no gender slurs, ty baiting, didn't even knew what *no gender slurs, ty baiting was or what it implied lol

I've figured out why I'm so upset about queerbaiting. It's because queerbaiting is a choice that creators of fictional characters make in terms of representation on a TV show. It's completely inappropriate to stake any claim towards any real person's sexuality. You can't go up to Dan and Phil and say, "you better come out as gay because we need you to represent us". When people in the fandom talk about queerbaiting, they're saying that Dan and Phil are required to explicitly state their sexuality, which is such a repulsive idea it actually hurts me. Dan and Phil aren't here to represent queers lol

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm pretty sure they stopped flying the No Homo flag after 2012. They're pretty chill with the shipping as far as I know.

illegal_mind (8 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=240
there was queerbating. queerbating has stopped being a thing that only tv writers use. it's started spreading on youtube when the cute popular boys would "act gay" with each other, to get shipped and get more viewers (gleam boys, tyler oakley and pretty and every straight boy he made a video with).
so the fans are seeing dan and phil, who used to not even want to be sitting next to each other, now acting like this on camera, on what it looks like a forced and rushed video. dan and phil's intent might not even have been to queerbate, but there's things that give off that impression. for example, when the question about future pinofs comes up, dan's dressed as an old man, says it's pinof 70-something, that phil's been dead for 16 years and that he's been very lonely. what do the fans take from that? that dan sees them as being alone together forever and that when they're old, it's just gonna be the 2 of them, and once one dies, the other will just be alone. the intent might've been a joke, but the way it came out was not. considering that's pretty much how dan acts when phil's away, he gets all moody and scared of being lonely and alone.

at the end of the day, the phandom is seeing things that maybe dan and phil only meant as jokes, but because the video basically ends up being an ad, the phandom sees all those things as phanservice and queerbating.

and yeah, i read about the girl that had posted her opinion on tumblr on how she felt the video was a lot of phanservice and queerbating, and then she started getting hate and death threats. apparently she has deleted everything about the situation. but it also shows the other side of the phandom. the "I LIKE THIS AND IT'S PERFECT BECAUSE DAN AND PHIL MADE IT AND YOU CAN'T DISLIKE IT. YOU MUST LOVE IT 100% AND IF YOU DISAGREE I'M GONNA KILL YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR PETS"

Phlebotomy (8 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=240
I don't agree that it's queerbaiting per se but I definitely got a good dose of "omg why can't people just sit back and enjoy stuff without opinions omg" from a big part of the fandom which really irritated me. It's sad that this fandom can't even have a good healthy discussion about sexual representation without death threats. The shut up and sit down mentality is harmful.

wisegirl (9 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=260
i just wanted to chime in about the queer-bating. it is the stupidest thing ive heard yet from tumblr and i agree with most of the people here. im a phd student in history and i work in queer and feminist theory in media representations so i know a bit about this and nothing in pinof comes even remotely close to that. it just goes to show you how tumblr is really a place for a lot of young kids who jump on certain catch terms and run with it. i actually enjoyed pinof. its natural for them to promote and sure it wasnt the same as the past but it never will be. as long as they are having fun--which they looked like they had a blast--and we laugh watching them then that's the point. I liked it.

honestly ive stayed away from the phandom for a while because its just too crazy for me. im a little older (27) and i just dont have the patience anymore. i mean first every little thing they do is phan, then its not enough phan, then its too much phan because their queer-batiting. what nonsense. if you want to see queer baiting watch some of the straight male youtubers who have on a gay collab and you'll see queer batiting then.

wisegirl (16 Dec 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=160
…it implies a deliberate manipulation on the part of dan & phil when they've actually done the opposite. they've avoided feeding the "beast" quite overtly. To call it manipulation would be factually incorrect. It is however a fascinating look at shipping as fantasy for that is what shipping truly is. How the fantasy is constructed by deliberate reinterpretation.

2015

wisegirl (25 Jan 2015) -
https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15754&sid=d4349319a4466a93d8994988b3851c32&start=300

> **timtam wrote:**
>
> If Dan and Phil didn't already have such an estabished relationship i'd argue that it was possibly fan service. However, they have been doing collabs together for years and are close friends off screen so the increased collabs seem genuine. If they had only been friends for a while and then started doing all these collabs i'd be more suspicious.
>
> They do have to be careful not to over do it. As long as they keep it genuine and just rely on their natural chemistry and dont force it they'll be fine. I mean the punk edit is a bit fan servicy in itself but is there anything wrong with that once in a while. It seems most people enjoyed it so it was clearly a good idea!

I agree. The claims of que*r-baiting stem from people who don't know the meaning of it. I heard this first from the last PINOF and especially after the bloopers and I shook my head. Regardless of how adorable their videos & collabs are, at the end of the day its still pretty platonic and tame. I mean has anyone seen the interaction of other male youtubers collabing? I would hate to see the the accusation of que*r-bating become a common one considering that their actions do NOT fit into that at all. The claims of qu*er-baiting are based on assumptions of gender differences, masculinity, and normative behavior that in turn reinforce them through the claims.

wisegirl (25 Jan 2015) -
https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15754&sid=d4349319a4466a93d8994988b3851c32&start=300

> **illegal_mind wrote:**
> let's see how far they go with the phanservice. and how quickly they regret it. because for now, it's making them money, but sooner or later, it'll just make more and more people ship them, and eventually stumble into all the "phan proof". and it'll get to a point where they'll have twice, if not three times, the phan shippers, asking about shit. and i don't think they're gonna be very keen on a wave of people asking about the vday video, and about all the tweets and all the screenshots.
>
> so they either have the option to deal with it and lie on the phanservice bed they made, or they accept they don't really have an escape and just admit to their audience that they are a couple. because the way things are going, they'll eventually be between a rock and a hard place, and they're gonna have to do something about it.

I definitely agree its going to increase the people who ship them and create a whole new wave of shipping. But there is a couple things we should remember. First, it isn't necessarily overly fan-service. The clearest sign of Fan-service is the tumblr tags and especially the reading of fan fiction. But this is still based on the same intention of fan-service; aimed at getting more views. I mean just look at the view

count on this video. It's going to pass Phil's last video real quick. The second thing to remember is that they still have a pretty good defense, them claiming to be platonic friends and us not knowing them in real life. They use that distance as a shield.

Despite that, you're right in that I think these type of videos may cause some pretty aggressive shipping by some. Just look at the comment section on the video. Little girls claiming they get "gayer" every video. People whose idea of how gay guys act come from TV and fantasies of anime boys. Or teens swooning because two guys put fake tats on one another. Every time these two so much as touch one another someone claims its "their way of coming out." It's silly, but its bound to happen. Now how Dan & Phil react to that is going to be interesting. Will aggressive shipping cause Dan to lash out defensively, or has he grown enough that he rides with it. Of course he's a lot bigger now too so direct contact with fans is much more controlled. He's not running a customer service blog etc. Will Phil withdraw and become close-lipped? Or will they continue as is.

I think they've also come to expect the phandom to police itself. Whether intentionally or not, they've trained their fans quite well. I think that they may continue as is and keep going about their business. I have a sneaking suspicious they've learned to own up to their chemistry and will continue to capitalize it while everyone eats it up.

wisegirl (11 Feb 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=16073&start=920

> **Jonquil wrote:**
> The qu*er baiting or fan servicing, depending on which way you look at it is opening done by the BBC, and the Sherlock example is the best and most obvious. But when Dan and Phil began on R1 there was some serious 'fan servicing' going on in their first year, thanks mainly to their producer and the R1 social media manager who discovered them. Look at all the Chart show intros (putting ice down other's shirt, dressing other, drawing on other) and then during their show Dan V Phil, wrapping arms round each other, lots of physical tactile games. Then contrast that with 2nd year with different producer and original social media manager left R1, Chart show intro they just read them, games less 'phan like'. 'Johnlock is being justified as not qu*er baiting as it's giving the fans what they want, surely then the same argument can be used for phanshipping.

The logic here is faulty. Johnlock and Phan may both be based on fantasy, but Dan and Phil are two real people, not characters in a drama, whose friendship is real. Phanshipping is capitalizing on that friendship. Dan and Phil may be perfectly fine with it, but the action is still qu*er-baiting, capitalizing on a popular gay ship, and capitalizing on the actual friendship of two individuals. It is quite problematic. The only reason it hasn't caused as much of a stir is because dan and phil go along with it. It is irresponsible and shows a disturbing corporate influence in a new arena of engagement.

Part 6: Changes in Phandom and Broader YouTube Culture

2013

liseppe (16 Oct 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=40

> **chicken2 wrote:**
> I dont know why but I feel like Dan & Phil are sort of done on youtube. Like they've outgrown it. Watching their videos just isnt what it used to be

Youtube isn't the same place it was when people like dan, phil, charlie, alex etc started out. It's much less of a community where viewers and content creators are considered to be "youtubers" and more now for fangirling and really high quality, professional videos. The partnership scheme and networks have allowed youtube to be a job rather than the community it once was.

PoisonedApple (22 Dec 2013) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=8250&start=160
…I don't know, but I know several YouTubers have had their homes staked out.
Hank Green made a post about he wanted people to respect his privacy, because a bunch of fangirls left gifts in his mailbox. Anthony Padilla from Smosh had to move because a bunch of fangirls found out his address and were threatening to kill his fiancee, and then Dan and Phil's fangirls found their old apartment and waited outside for them to come out.

And those are just the incidents that I happen to know of. I'm sure many more YouTubers have been stalked at their own homes countless of times. That's what happens when you're a recognizable figure who openly shares your location on the internet for thousands of girls to see. You don't have to even name what city / neighborhood / street you're in, if you're filming and showing the view outside of your window, or walking down a street with shops, creepy fangirls can use these as points of reference to find you. That's how Dan and Phil were found, apparently.

2014

illegal_mind (7 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=240
the thing is, their collabs, like pinof, were the chance the fans had of seeing dan and phil being their genuine selves, just being random and stupid, and act like close friends normally do. but now, the friendship has become a brand, and that's the issue. they took something the fans saw as their genuine friendship(which the phandom didn't see much because they were rarely in each other's videos) and stamped a price on it.

the cat whiskers were the pinof symbol, and now they're just another thing that they sell. and it seems a big problem is that the video had advertising at the end. pinnof was always just them in phil's bedroom, fooling around, it's their 1st video together, and the first time people got to see them interact with each other, and now it has been turned into a product. at the end of the video, instead of just ending it on a silly not, they end it by advertising the pinof merch they had just released, a couple days prior to the video being uploaded. the fact the video felt so rushed to many, adds to people feeling like dan and phil were just trying to get it done and then advertise the merch for something that was once a special annual celebration, and is now nothing more than them giving fanservice and selling their friendship.

there's plenty of people that left the phandom between late 2012 and now, and among many reasons(like losing interest), one of the reasons was because they felt dan and phil were becoming too "corporate", too much of a brand. they were no longer 2 guys living together in their manchester flat, making videos for fun, they were now 2 guys, with a job at bbcr1, that were making videos to afford a more expensive lifestyle. dan went from being a college drop out, to wasting $500 on a shirt.

things like this make the fans not pleased with the current situation, and they eventually get fed up and leave. dan and phil are doing a good move by selling themselves, and making a brand together, but plenty of people don't seem to like it, and at the end of the day, it's those people that buy the brand, and if they're not happy with it, they're not gonna keep buying it

wisegirl (9 Nov 2014) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=13736&start=260
As for abuse in youtube i really am not surprised. youtube has changed. it isnt about community anymore. it is a bunch of people living their fantasy of being celebrities and idols while groups of young individuals simultaneously feel like they have a connection while idolizing them. i mean look at something like vidcon. its divided into vip vs everyone else. put a bunch of young individuals in a position of power, prestige, and entitlement and it is a recipe for disaster. i am not saying youtube culture breeds abuse, but i am saying the way things have changed it allows it to happen, even facilitates it.

2015

SlothMe (3 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=900
It's funny how youtube is known and used in different countries. Most vogglers here in Brazil have more of a political tone to their videos, and the ones who criticize stuff where the ones who made youtube be a thing. The legend is before 2009 there weren't any vloggers in the brazilian youtube community. I clearly remember being almost 15 and suddenly everyone in my class started talking about youtube videos that weren't music videos, these vogglers were mostly popular among boys in the beggining I think.

During the next months the crazyness slowly died down, but everytime that one guy uploaded a video it was all half the class would talk about, and when he said twilight was trash during one of his vlogs, feuds were created between people that lasted at least a few days. It was all so intense now that I think about it.

The year after that it seemed like no one watched youtube anymore, the novelty of it all had passed I guess. I stopped watching youtube and looking at how the community developed, but apparently a lot of new youtubers appeared. The gurus, the gaming channels, more vloggers (most with the political critical thing going on, in minor or major level), book review channels, movie review channels, nerd things channels, pop culture channels, comedy channels, etc

But I've never seem vloggers like Dan, Phil, Tyler Oakley, Marcus, Alfie, Hanna and all that. It's still a small community I guess, if you compare it to the american/british ones, which seem to be basically joined as far as fans are concerned. Like, I was never very interested in youtube until I came across the FineBros, which was what led me to know Dan and Phil. I'll be honest to say I didn't really like them at first because I couldn't understand shit of what they were saying (tbh, I took me the two seasons of Sherlock with english subtitles on to get used to the english accent)

People seem to be less attached to youtubers here, I usually don't see the fangirl level I see going on with D&P with the national youtubers. Like, I see lot of fangirls and fanboys of marvel, dc comics, sherlock, doctor who, or of movies and books but not fangirls/boys of youtubers

That's not a brazilian quality though, it just sounds like it. I often come across brazilians in some places on youtube, and in the english speaking community is where they let their fangirl thing for youtubers out. Like that one girl I wanted to run over with a thousand cars evrytime I am watching D or P's liveshow and every 5 minutes there's a string of "BRAZIL!! BRAZIL!! BRAZIL!! BRAZIL!! BRAZIL!!", please, stop.

Funnily enough, if someone were to say "AUSTRALIA!! AUSTRALIA!! AUSTRALIA!! AUSTRALIA!! AUSTRALIA!!" in the chat, I wouldn't have such a strong reaction.

There's also some brazilian girls who uploaded a video of them meeting Dan in front of the BBC at the end of the radio show, and they made Dan say the lirics of a song in portuguese without he even knowing what he was saying. That's rude. In the end he sort of joked saying they probably made him say "I did you mom", well he wasn't far off. But it was much worse.

I know they intended as a joke, but it was stupid. The end.

Idk, I just had to vent my frustation of only seeing immature brazilians in the phandom, when I see one. Don't even get me started on the fact they travelled to London and preffered to stay in front of the BBC for God knows how many hours instead of doing something more interesting, an airplane ticked to the UK from Brazil can vary from $900 to $2000 dollars. At least they were happy in the end, I guess.

tl,dr: youtube community and fanbase vary a lot around the world; in Brazil most people aren't attached to the youtubers they watch as I see happening in the english speaking community, the ones who do usually speak english and watch american/british youtubers and act like your usual next fangirl; I suffer a lot of second hand embarassment for stupid reasons; Youtube isn't as mainstream around the world as we feel it is and I'm jealous of rich people

imphanaf (3 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=14699&start=920
Same here. Chilean Youtube Community is so big now. It all started around 2012 with HolaSoyGerman which now it's just behind Smosh and PewdiePie on subscribers which is huge. And also the gamers Xodaaa and Vardoc, which they are quite funny but all of them are stigmatized by having 13 year old fanbase, but they still make the papers every now and then with their drama and gossip, which is quite funny tbh. There's even a shipping community of Xodaaa and Vardoc which is odd af for me.

When I started watching Phil around 2009, no one here even knew about youtubers as a "thing"; now most people have at least heard of like Tyler Oakley, Smosh, Pewds, D&P, etc. There isn't much people who are like part of the phandom but i've met quite a few over the years, but it's mainly because there are channels like danisnotonfuego who make subtitutles for their videos.

It's really amazing how people here have actually learnt a whole new language off youtube- like my little sister who is 10 and watches Cyprien (french youtuber), HolaSoyGerman (chilean) and Phil. It's really a good plataform for learning like i did by watching MCR interviews, Ryan Higa and charlieissocoollike back in 2007.

wisegirl (17 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=520

> **nikawolfe wrote:**
> A topic drifting around my mind is how the phandom has changed over the years. Any experienced people willing to tell me their opinions?

interesting question. it definitely has changed. the earlier phandom when dan was just starting out & phil was a burgeoning internet figure was much closer than it is now. earlier it was more like making friends via the internet. its very 2009 & earlier internet experience. you made friends on the net & eventually you developed a little group. i saw this over and over again whether it was forums or other avenues & youtube was no different. fans were also involved in the youtube groups themselves, not just as fans but as essential members. fans & youtubers became friends. a great example of this was how meet ups happened. it was intermingling not separation. while yes they took photos with one another youtubers and fans really were on the same level. there wasn't too much shipping from what i can recall, lots of illicit stuff going on as well. Lots of people were hooking up, lots of people were getting wasted. it was very rebellious, bohemian, and marginalized. it was the teens who found a place of belonging where they could express themselves. while i am sure they had younger fans, mostly it was same age fans.

as the phandom grew and youtubers grew it did change. it went from friends and subscribers to "fans." just as the videos became more professional so too did the phandom become a proper fandom rather than a collection of communities. the interactions became less in person and more distanced both between the youtber and the fan and among one another. a great example is this forum. i doubt many of us know each other in person. and of course the distance between fans and youtubers, it is unlikely a fan could become friends with a youtuber now. all of this led to the phandom of today which is far more boyband fan behavior then it used to be. there was weird stuff back then too, but not this "omg they tweeted me im crying and shaking" then 100 other people caplock tweeting in shock and so on and so forth.

such is the reality of society and its weird obsessions with celebrity. bye bye, home of the weird, the strange, the marginalized, the community that found commonality and hello celebrity culture with your flashing lights and crying young girls.

wisegirl (17 Jan 2015) - https://gurugossiper.com/viewtopic.php?t=15371&start=580

…this forum is just the other side of celebrity culture. we would not be here talking about it if they hadn't gotten to where they are. there isn't one-side to the culture but multifaceted. while each community has its characteristics at the end of the day they are generalizations. this forum also analyzes and freaks out, to a lesser degree, but still does. they both are parts of the same whole. gotta say i am surprised people post on holidays and such but then i remember not everyone has the same life and these types of communities are formed from people who are looking for something, belonging, interest, commonality etc. so the impulse that was there back then is still around even if the circumstances have changed.

> **TigerGirl wrote:**
> I was pretty young in 2009 too and I used youtube very rarely. I wish I could be part of that community back then

change isn't always bad. things were different, but not necessarily better. there were some shady stuff going on back there like i mentioned. maybe nto directly in dan & phils circle but in the youtuber community. safety now seems a priority but there are downsides today as well like the manipulation of fans, the false sense of familiarity or honesty, the rampant commercialization and exploitation of fans etc. But there are some good things there as well like exposure and mainstream success.

and i don't want either liveshows the chat is really quite alarming to me. to see first hand that people act that way and think that way worries me for the world haha. but from what i can see their liveshows are boring. its another way they make it seem they are in touch with their fans when in reality they are doing it for their own financial reasons.

as to them hosting. they are not exactly great interviewers or hosts from the perspective of the people being interviewed because unlike traditional hosts they do not try to make them comfortable or look for substantial questions and rapport. but that isn't their job. that's what traditional interviews are like. it is the audiences opp to get answers and find out things. but dan and phil are entertainers and in that regards them appealing to their quirky humors works quite well. maybe not in teh clean bandits situation but normally its quite funny for the audience even if it is less than comfortable for the person involved lol.

felucca (26 Jan 2015) -

> **turtle613 wrote:**
> Maybe some of us were overdramatizing a bit about the bad things Dan has said or done, but in the light of last year's mass youtube sex-abuse scandal, I'm more than just a bit wary of any potential red flags or other warning signs of popular youtubers. Some of those implicated youtubers I watched for a while without really thinking they could possibly have been abusers (even though the signs were there), so I guess I just don't trust my instinctive evaluation of people through youtube anymore (can you even?). This probably isn't a good comparison, but Dan and Phil used to remind a bit of DesandNate (the emo dan and phil?), and both of them (though Destery in particular) has been revealed to be a huge creep, though apparently short of rape. Thoughts?

I definitely think the whole youtube sex scandal has made a lot of us a bit more wary and soon to criticise. Bottom line is, we don't know these people. We never will. All we can do is speculate and that's what we're doing here, hence "gossip". And what are we basing our gossip on? What they choose to show us. Let's never forget that.

But yeah, judging by everything he's shown us for the past two years Dan has indeed done some remarkably quick growing up, and what the hell, I find him likable as fuck. Besides, wouldn't it be kind of hard to fake being a decent person for an hour at a time every week in a liveshow? (Not that I'm accusing him of that at all, obviously.)

Offtopic: I didn't watch Youtube last year, before the scandals. It's very interesting to me that you did turtle613, and that you can say that "the signs were there". Makes me sort of wish I would've started watching Youtube earlier so I could've been there when it happened, morbid as is may sound.